

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03  
ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06  
TRSE-00 NSC-05 /064 W  
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R 281617Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4248  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS

S E C R E T ROME 6882

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, NATO, IT, UK  
SUBJ: DUAL-HATting NAD RELOCATION OF CINCUSNAVEUR AT AFSOUTH

REF: STATE 091080

1. EMBASSY HAS HAD INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS IN ACCORDANCE  
WITH REFTEL AT MOD (WITH VICE CHIEF OF STAFF ADM. MAININI)  
AND AT MFA (OFFICE OF NATO AFFAIRS).

2. THOUGH THE MFA HAD NO PREVIOUS INKLING OF THE PROPOSAL  
TO DUAL HAT AFSOUTH, ACCORDING TO MAININI IT HAS BEEN THE  
SUBJECT OF CORRIDOR TALK AT THE MOD FOR SOME TIME. MAININI  
INDICATED THAT FROM A PURELY MILITARY POINT OF VIEW THE  
MOD WOULD LIKELY LOOK WITH FAVOR ON THE MOVE AS ONE THAT  
WOULD SIMPLIFY COORDINATION BETWEEN THE ITALIAN AND  
AMERICAN NAVIES. HE FORESAW, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WOULD BE  
POLITICAL PROBLEMS AS "IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO CAMOUFLAGE  
THE INSTALLATION OF A MAJOR AMERICAN COMMAND IN ANPLES".  
OUR CONTACTS AT THE MFA WERE RELUCTANT TO SPECULATE ON  
THE POSSIBLE ATTITUDE OF THE MINISTRY BUT AGREED WITH  
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MAININI THAT THERE WOULD LIKELY BE SOME POLITICALLY  
MOTIVATED RESERVATIONS.

3. BOTH OUR INTERLOCUTORS INDICATED THEY WOULD BRIEF  
THEIR RESPECTIVE MINISTERS (STRESSING THE PRELIMINARY  
NATURE OF THE CONSULTATION) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THIS  
WILL PROVIDE THE GROUNDWORK FOR A SUBSTANTIVE DIALOGUE

AT THE DECISION-MAKING LEVEL OF THE GOI SHOULD THAT  
BECOME NECESSARY OR DESIREABLE.

4. COMMENT: WE EXPECT TO GET FURTHER FEEDBACK FROM BOTH  
MINISTRIES AFTER THEY HAVE HAD TIME TO DIGEST THE IMPORT  
OF THE PROPOSAL. THE PRELIMINARY REACTION WAS PREDICTABLE.  
FURTHER REFLECTION IN AND BETWEEN THE TWO MINISTRIES  
LIKELY WILL ONLY REINFORCE AND REFINE THE INITIAL REACTION  
THAT "THERE IS A POLITICAL PROBLEM". THE PROBLEM CAN BE  
DESCRIBED SIMPLY. THE DC GOVERNMENT IS AGAIN BEING PLACED  
ON THE HORNS OF A DILEMMA. IT WOULD LIKE TO SHOW US ITS  
FIRM AND UNQUESTIONING ATTACHMENT TO THE PRUPOSES OF THE  
ALLIANCE BY QUICKLY ACCEPTING PROPOSALS OF THIS KIND. AT  
THE SAME TIME IT KNOWS THAT PUBLIC AWARENESS OF AN INCREASE  
IN THE U.S. PRESENCE IN NAPLES AND THE ADDITION OF ANOTHER  
MAJOR U.S. COMMAND IN ITALY WOULD BE SUBJECT TO  
CONTROVERSY AND CRITICISM IN THE PRESS. THE FRAGILITY  
OF THE GOVERNMENT IS SUCH THAT IT WOULD PREFER NOT TO  
ADD FURTHER CONTENTIOUS ISSUES TO ITS ALREADY DIFFICULT  
AGENDA. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT IF PRESSED THE GOI  
WOULD EVENTUALLY (IF PAINFULLY) ACCEDE, THOUGH ASKING  
THAT THE PROPOSAL BE IMPLEMENTED UNDER CONDITIONS OF  
CONCEALMENT WHICH WOULD PROBABLY BE IMPOSSIBLE TO MEET. GARDNER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
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**Concepts:** ALLIANCE, ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES, MILITARY BASES  
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**To:** STATE NATO BRUSSELS  
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